

# Calendar No. 628

82D CONGRESS }  
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SENATE

{ REPORT  
No. 684

## SISTER MONICA GRANT

AUGUST 20 (legislative day, AUGUST 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 1013]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 1013) for the relief of Sister Monica Grant, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

#### AMENDMENT

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

That for the purposes of the immigration and naturalization laws, Sister Monica Grant shall be held and considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of the enactment of this Act, upon payment of the required visa fee and head tax. Upon the granting of permanent residence to such alien as provided for in this Act, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate quota for the first year that such quota is available.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill, as amended, is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Sister Monica Grant. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill was born in the Fiji Islands on December 26, 1913, and is a subject of Great Britain. She was last admitted to the United States in transit to the Fiji Islands on December 7, 1950.

She is a nun in the Roman Catholic Order of St. Joseph of Cluny, and has been attending Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles in order to qualify as a teacher under California State law. It appears that a new school has been built in Wilmington, Calif., and the services of the beneficiary of the bill are needed as a member of the faculty of the new school.

A letter dated July 6, 1951, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

JULY 6, 1951.

HON. PAT MCCARRAN,

*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 1013) for the relief of Sister Monica Grant, an alien.

The bill would direct the Attorney General to cancel deportation proceedings against Sister Monica Grant and to refrain from commencing any further such proceedings based on the same facts. It would also provide that the alien shall be considered to have entered the United States in November 1950 and to have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence. Finally, the bill would direct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that Sister Monica Grant, a nun in the Roman Catholic Order of St. Joseph of Cluny, is a subject of Great Britain of the East Indian Race, who was born in Suva, Fiji Islands, on December 26, 1913. Coming from Europe, she entered the United States at the port of New York on November 10, 1950, when she was admitted in transit to the Fiji Islands under section 3 (3) of the Immigration Act of 1924, for a period to expire on December 7, 1950. Her application for an extension of her temporary stay for a period of 2 years for the purpose of studying in this country was denied, but she was granted until February 12, 1951, in which to depart. She failed to depart, however, and is now considered as being in this country illegally.

Sister Monica Grant advised that her parents, a brother and a sister reside in the Fiji Islands, and that her father is the owner of a chain of theaters in the islands. She also advised that her religious name is Sister Marie Monica Grant and that before entering the convent she was known as Rose Grant. It appears that she is a teaching sister and that her order has headquarters in Paris, France. She was in Paris from 1932 until 1935, and in May 1950 left the Fiji Islands for Europe. While her headquarters were at the mother house of her order in Paris, she attended the beatification ceremony of the mother foundress of the order in Rome in October 1950, and visited England and Ireland. She stated that while visiting friends in this country en route to the Fiji Islands her superior in Paris decided she was to remain here for the purpose of entering a convent and school which is to be built in Wilmington, Calif. Since December 6, 1950, she has been attending the Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles in order to qualify as a teacher under California State law. She is dependent upon her order for support.

Since Sister Monica Grant is of the East Indian race she is chargeable to the quota of India which is heavily oversubscribed. Under the general immigration laws a nonquota or preference status is not provided for religious nuns who seek to enter the United States for the purpose of carrying on their vocation. Therefore, in the absence of special legislation she may not remain in this country for permanent residence.

Whether in this case the general provisions of the immigration laws should be waived presents a question of legislative policy concerning which this Department prefers not to make any recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,  
*Deputy Attorney General.*

The Rt. Rev. Joseph T. McGucken, auxiliary bishop, archdiocese of Los Angeles, has submitted the following statement of facts in connection with the beneficiary of the bill:

## PRIVATE BILL S. 1013, FOR THE RELIEF OF SISTER MONICA GRANT

Sister Monica Grant is a nun or religious of the Catholic Church and a member of the Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny. She was born in the Fiji Islands, the daughter of Brahman Indian mother and father who became converts to Christianity. She was educated to teach school, and has actually taught both grammar school and high school for a number of years.

She was chosen by her community in the Fiji Islands to represent them in Rome at the canonization ceremony of the foundress of the order or the society to which she belongs. In returning from Rome she entered this country on a transit visa intending to cross the country and leave the Pacific coast for the Fiji Islands.

In the meantime, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, to which she belongs agreed to provide a faculty for the new school which has been built in Wilmington, Calif. She was directed by the superiors of her society to make arrangements to discontinue her journey back to the Fiji Islands and to remain in the United States in order to become a member of the faculty of this new school.

The extraordinary growth of the Los Angeles area has necessitated the building and opening of many new schools. Both the public-school system and the archbishop of Los Angeles who has charge of the Catholic parochial schools have been pressed with petitions from the people in the various new areas to provide schools for their children. One of the chief difficulties to be overcome in opening a new school is to provide a properly trained and qualified staff of teachers. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny is a world-wide teaching order with a fine reputation for the success of their educational institutions. Consequently this group will satisfy a very serious need in the Los Angeles area. It would be impossible to satisfy this need without their help, as experience has shown in the efforts of the archbishop of Los Angeles to find sisters from various parts of the United States and the English-speaking world to staff the new schools. If Sister Monica Grant were not permitted to remain in the United States it is quite likely that this community would not be able to take on the new school in Wilmington because they themselves are short of teachers and have many demands made upon them for foundations in other places also.

Sister Monica Grant will be not only an indispensable member of the teaching staff but because of her personal qualifications she is impossible to replace. She is a definite benefit to the community. She comes from a distinguished family. The father merits well of this country because of his assistance to the Armed Forces in the South Seas. Sister Monica Grant has received an excellent education which qualifies her to teach both grammar and high school. Her qualifications in the field of languages is so exceptional that it would be impossible to find one to take her place. Her background of travel and experience, as well as her first-hand knowledge of geography, makes it desirable that we make every effort to permit her to remain here and give the children committed to her care the benefit of her qualifications.

The bill has been amended to conform with the policy of the committee in granting permanent residence in the United States to an alien as of the date of the adjustment rather than as of the date of last entry into the United States.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 1013), as amended, should be enacted.

